Opening of public call offices in Orissa

*218. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public Call Offices opened in Orissa so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that this number is low in comparison with that of the other States; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to provide adequate telephone facilities to Orissa, particularly in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) 1919 Public Call Offices are working in Orissa as on 31.3.89.

(b) No, Sir. There are some other states with still lesser number.

(c) 310 Public Call Offices are proposed to be provided in Orissa during 1989-90, out of which 160 will be in rural areas.

120 telephone exchanges have been allotted for opening new exchanges and replacing or expanding the existing exchanges in the rural areas.

Discussion for British Hawk Trainer

*219. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the meeting of the Prime Minister with the British Prime Minister in Paris recently, the sale of British Hawk Trainer was discussed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) There was a passing reference to this subject and the British interest was noted.

(b) Details were not discussed.

Manufacture of electronic voting machines

*220. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letters of intent have been given for manufacture of electronic voting machines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two Industrial Licences for the manufacture of Electronic Voting Machines with an annual capacity of 1,00,000 nos. each have been issued to M/s. Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and M/s. ECIL, Hyderabad.

Assam Agartala National Highway

@1518. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) in which year the construction of Assam-Agartala road a National Highway was started;

(b) whether the road has been made an all weather road;

(c) whether all the bridges including bridge over Khowai, Dhalai Manu and Deo rivers have been constructed and reconstructed with the expansion of heavy traffic; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Border Roads Organisation which has taken up the construction of the roads has not allotted sufficient funds for the works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The construction

@Previously Unstarred Question 876, transferred from 26th July, 1989.